

December 3, 2009

Focusing on School Improvement

Four High School Goals

<i>Improve student performance</i>	<i>Improve school spirit and morale among students and staff</i>
<i>Improve attendance</i>	<i>Improve community/school relations</i>

- ☐ Welcome and expression of appreciation to attendees
 - A quick recap was provided. Teachers were reminded that everyone is welcome to attend the school improvement team (S.I.T.) planning meetings, and that they are welcome to come and go to meetings as they are able. Attendees were reminded that minutes are provided after every meeting in order to summarize the discussion. The school improvement team will provide the opportunity to ask questions of previous meetings; however, no time will be spent reviewing the agenda from meeting to meeting. We will continue to progress through items as efficiently as possible in order to make progress towards goals.
- ☐ Information from LFS and the summer curriculum collaboration sessions was shared.
 - A building copy of the *Power Curriculum* book was provided. This book includes a logon to the Toolbox at www.learningfocused.com. Teachers from the high school who attended this past summer are Mr. Volchansky, Mr. Pinci, Mrs. Callender, and Mrs. Oldt. Prioritized curricula for four core content areas were developed. I will be visiting each department chair of the four core areas to share the Toolbox resource we now have available.
- ☐ Technology Discussion
 - Daphne shared that two new servers were installed while teachers and students were away over Thanksgiving break. Those servers were the mwhserver and the proxy server. In addition to the proxy server, a new web filtering software called *WebSense* was installed. Teachers will likely experience some differences in sites that are blocked and/or unblocked. Please utilize SchoolDude to make all requests for blocking and unblocking sites. Some additional changes that have been made include unblocking streaming media. We will also be investigating how to create logons for teachers that will provide them with ability to enter an override username and password should an appropriate site be blocked for which they would like to access.
 - Other items for discussion included:
 - Teacher access to folders and resources from home
 - Student access to folders and resources from home
 - Setting folder permissions to be completed in the future by network administrators only
 - Web development
 - Specific to web development there was some discussion about the complexity of developing a website from scratch. Daphne shared the importance of teachers having a website for increased home/school communication. We will likely investigate additional options for creating web pages in order to simplify the process.

- The IT department also wishes to thank everyone for their patience over the last several months during our periods of downtime and network outages.
- **New School Electronic White Board Selection:** As you know, each room in the new high school will be furnished with an electronic whiteboard. On January 5, 2010 at 2:45 PM a representative from Promethean will be providing a presentation at the high school on the Promethean electronic whiteboard. On January 6, 2010 at 2:45 PM a representative from SMART Solutions Technologies will be providing a presentation at the high school on the SMARTBoard electronic whiteboard. All faculty members are invited! We will ask those present to complete a short evaluation form that will provide feedback specific to each board in the categories of Ease of Use, Curriculum/Content Resources, Technical Considerations, and Maintenance Requirements. Feedback gathered from the faculty will determine which style board is purchased and installed in the new school. In order for your feedback to count, you must commit to attending both sessions.

☐ February 12 Professional Development Planning

- Several items were discussed and are being planned for the Friday, February 12th in-service day. Already scheduled items include:
 - Benefits Presentation
 - Health Screening
 - HS Building Tour
- Items discussed as in-service needs include:
 - 9th grade Teaming
 - Integration of reading strategies provided by teachers who participated in Reading Apprenticeship training. These strategies will be shared with teachers during department time. More information to follow...

☐ An additional item for discussion included concerns that were shared regarding a potential change in the grading practice. This item is currently an open item for discussion and will continue throughout future meetings.

☐ Getting down to business:

- Cynthia provided an assortment of readings, which will be used during future planning sessions. If you have chosen an article/chapter, please come prepared to discuss on December 17th.



In a completely rational society, the best of us would aspire to be teachers and the rest of us would have to settle for something less, because passing civilization along from one generation to the next ought to be the highest honor and the highest responsibility anyone could have.

-- Lee Iacocca